

no support for this amendment was necessary. Claim 12 was not subject to a rejection under §112. Thus, no support for the claim amendments to claim 12 were necessary for a fully responsive amendment. However, in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application, applicants refer the Examiner to page 7, line 20 through page 8, line 3, for support of the amendments to claim 12. This example is for the first of thirteen embodiments disclosed in the application. Similar support can be found for other embodiments of the invention. Accordingly, applicants submit that the Amendment filed March 19, 2001, was fully responsive and request consideration of that Amendment.

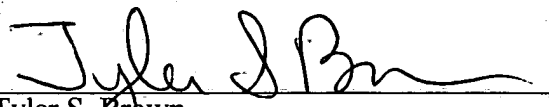
Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing docket no. 163852016000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 11, 2001

By:


Tyler S. Brown
Registration No. 36,465

Morrison & Foerster LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1888
Telephone: (703) 760-7710
Facsimile: (202) 263-8396